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REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated June 29, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by September 29, 2006.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9-16 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for various informalities. Claims 3, 4, and 9-13 were also objected to for informalities. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,711,457 to Wezel. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 11, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,741,016 to Barton et al. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, 11, 13, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,505,840 to Huggins et al ("Huggins '840").

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 9, 10, and 12, if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, claim 9 has been written in independent form as new claim 15. Claim 10 now depends from claim 15. Allowable claim 12 was rewritten in independent form as new claim 16.

The specification was amended to address the objections.

The claims also were amended to address the objections based on lack of antecedent bases. Claim 14 was amended to recite the relevant features of claim 1.

To more clearly define the present invention over the cited references, claim 1 was amended to add the features of claims 2 and 8, which were canceled. In addition, claim 1 includes the feature that chucking jaws 32 are guided in the base body 32, as shown in Fig. 2 and disclosed in the specification on page 8, first paragraph, line 3.

Amended claim 1 also defines that the base body "has a set of teeth (48) in which the at least one locking device (10) engages in a locking position, and wherein as a result of meshing with the set of teeth (48), the at least one locking device (10) is axially fixed on the base body (32)". Support for these features can be found in the specification on page 8, fourth paragraph, lines 5-9, paragraph 1, line 2, as well as Figs. 2, 9, and 10.

The Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references disclose or suggest all of the features of amended claim 1.

In Huggins, the base body 20 does not have any teeth, in which a locking device is engaged and thereby is axially fixed on the base body. In addition, in Huggins, corresponding teeth are provided on a "front sleeve" 60 and on a "driver" 30.

With the present invention, providing the teeth on the base body provides an exceptionally strong, compact and cost-effective construction. In particular, the base body, which basically is made from a very resistant material, also can

be used advantageously for axial fixing. None of the cited references disclose or suggest this particular feature.

Thus, the cited references cannot be considered appropriate references either under MPEP section 2131, which indicates that to anticipate a claim a reference must teach every element of the claim in as complete detail as is contained in Applicants' claim, or under MPEP section 2143.03, since not all of Applicants' claim limitations are taught or suggested.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of claims 1, 3-7, and 9-16 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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